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approval of all intelligent people of this community ; and I hope to be able to send you, before the Distribution, a larger list of subscribers." We may add that Fort Plain did nobly, through the efforts of Mr. F.

L. B. WILLIARD, of Palmyra, Ohio, writes :—"That you are furthering a love for Art, in America, is true. It is a good and a noble cause. God speed you!" And also adds : "Your *Art Journal* and *Saturday Night* are great attractions. I can now work with greater hopes of success. The inducements are too strong for a lover of literature and art to resist." [Next year will be an astonisher in the way of "inducements," we hope, friend H.]

I. T. WRIGHT, Esq., of Castleton, Vt., says : "An examination of the 'Journal' does more to get subscribers than anything else." Another year the Journal shall, indeed, be a feature well worth two dollars per year, in itself, but will nevertheless be furnished as a gratuity!

Our Secretary at Charleston, S. C., writes encouragingly, and is so in raptures with the engraving, ("Saturday Night,") that he begs we may secure and send him "Sunday Morning," as a companion. May he have many a fine "Sunday Morning," and may they do him good!" We shall have something even more superb than "Saturday Night" among the *standing* features of our coming year.

JAMES S. REEVES, of Meigsville, Ohio, enclosing a little list, adds, rather humorously, "The 'Cosmopolitan' must become a *fixed fact*, when five live subscribers can be "scared up" in this "neck of woods," for, though there are no (Amster) dam Dutch here, of any kind, there are lots of human beings excessively humane. Now, if any of my subscribers should draw anything—one of these women—(stone ones, *of course*)—it will raise a rumpus in these parts, sure." We *blew* that list, for luck's sake, and hope fortune favored some of the Meigsville subscribers.

FREDERICK MORSEY, Esq., of Warren-town, Mo., "makes no deductions from the money sent, for he is too much in favor of our undertaking to take anything for his services. He had rather give than take." Mr. M. has our right hand of fellowship. His example is worthy of emulation.

[Want of space forbids the insertion of other extracts, which we designed to use at this time. We could have occupied a whole page profitably with this matter, and regret that we cannot do so.]

THE LADIES!—GOD BLESS THEM!



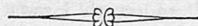
NEVER was toast more *apropos* or deserved. We receive such 'ye-pistles from the fair ones as does our Beneficent heart good to read ; for which we have no household fears, either ; for *our* better half will enjoy them, too, *when* she sees them in print! If it would do to betray confidences—as did the "Home Journal," once upon a time, when it exhumed old love and heart letters, and gave them to the gaze of the scandal-loving—we should have many a sweet tale to tell, many a pretty fancy to give utterance to. But we care not to repeat what was told in confidence. We have, however, many a pretty page which will bear repetition, and give no displeasure to the fair writers. From such we shall steal a few "whispers," merely to show to the great public what favor the Association finds among the "Daughters of America."

Mrs. HARRIET E. B. T., canvassing in Maine, writes : "Some of my friends oppose me by ridicule ; others, by what they think solid argument. I shall consider it no small honor to become a member of such a glorious institution—enough to raise the ambition of any country dame above the roof of her own wigwam, I should judge." She sends us *fifteen* subscribers, in earnest of *her* sympathy.

Miss ANNIE A. P., writing from Fairview, Ill., says : "I feel very much interested in the Association, and rejoice in the unparalleled success of the Institution, in the first three years. You have my hearty co-operation, and my humble influence shall be used in getting the people to understand what it is, &c. I judge it is not understood as well in this part of the country as it should be, by the conversation I have had with several, and the incident of the "Art Journal" having been looked over in the Post Office, and its pages laughed at as something funny." Labor on, Miss Annie! By your "earnest endeavor" you may enlighten many minds upon some things.

Miss LUCIA M. H., of Ellenville, N. Y., is anxious to know if what Ballou's Pictorial said *can* be true. She says : "Although brought up among the cows and

cabbage-heads, I have a taste for the beautiful ;" and forthwith encloses her subscription. Many such letters we have, from persons living on farms and in isolated communities. They are very cheering, as showing how widely-spread is the Art-taste among our countrywomen. Where is the woman that *is* a *gentlewoman*, who is not a friend of Art and Letters?



DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH!

OUR Subscribers, as a general thing, are very good-natured, and sail along in the "cosmopolitan" craft like true cosmopolites, partaking of just such fare as Fortune brings. We do not, therefore, feel like complaining ; but, an occasional case comes to our hearing, of some one, who, because he (or she) did not draw a picture, or a statue, declares against the institution, and forthwith are very much disappointed. Now, we have good reason to complain of such, in a very loud manner, for it is so ungenerous that it is hardly to be expected we should keep our perfect equanimity. But, as the Good Book enjoins, "let us reason together."

First : we give a full and entire equivalent for every subscription, viz. :—a three-dollar Magazine and the "Art Journal," (worth two dollars more)—*all for three dollars!* Or we give a *bona-fide* five-dollar engraving and the "Art Journal" for three dollars, if preferred. No institution organized in America, ever gave a more ample return for money ; and for a subscriber to find fault because we do not give more, is, to say the least, an inexcusable want of generosity.

But, second ; we do more—much more! As fast as the funds of the Association allow, Works of Art are purchased ; and these are added, *as a gratuity*, to be distributed by lot among the patrons and friends of the institution, not more as an inducement to subscribe, than to disseminate Art and Art-taste, broadcast, among the people, and thus to consummate the more perfectly the work of beneficence to which the "Cosmopolitan" is devoted. If the subscriber becomes possessed, by the fortune of the Distribution, of one of the Art-treasures of the Annual Collection, he is, really, in possession of an entire gratuity, and ought so to regard it, in justice to the Association which labors so hard, by strict economy in its manage-

ment, to gather works of Art for distribution. If, for the three dollars, every subscriber not only had two Magazines, or an engraving and a Magazine, but also a picture or a piece of statuary, or a bronze medallion, how long would the Association be able to sustain itself?

Let each subscriber reflect upon these things, and seek to aid us in our good work by good words, rather than to bestow upon us hard names, simply because, for three dollars, a return of fifty, or one hundred, or more, is not made. The year just past has been a prosperous one; and we draw from it the most sanguine hopes for the future. We shall endeavor to render the inducement to patronize the Association above all cavil or possible complaint; and, by our Art gatherings and distributions, to do such a work for American taste as it is our wish and earnest endeavor to accomplish; only let our friends be reasonable, not too selfish and exacting, thus to discourage us. We shall then be content to labor on cheerfully, and may assuredly promise good fruits for the years to come. So may it be!



A P O L O G E T I C .



ONE of the most vexing cares connected with the detail of the Association is the mailing department, where, although we have a most efficient force, discrepancies will occur which are annoying to all concerned. The frequent letters announcing that such and such numbers of the Magazine have not come to hand, leads us to frequent and careful inspection of the books, and we are free to confess we frequently find ourselves in fault. But, in the majority of cases—indeed, in nineteen out of twenty—we have to blame others for the non-receipt of the Magazines. The causes are these:

1st. Blind address and consequent misdirection. Many subscriptions come, of which, with our intimate knowledge of chirography, we are unable properly to make out the person's name, or the town and State of the address. We generally do the best we can in such cases—direct as nearly right as possible—but frequently do not “come within four rows of apple-trees of the right mark.”

2d. Miscarriages of the mails. *Very* frequent now-a-days, for letters as well as for Magazines.

3d. Loss of mails, by fire, shipwreck, collisions, and theft. Not unfrequent, as all have reason to know who read the papers.

4th. Abstraction of particular numbers by post-office clerks—doubtless, with the honest intention of returning them, but too often forgotten.

These are *some* of the causes of the losses and apparent discrepancies which, reported to us, give not a little trouble. But subscribers will please understand, that we *very cheerfully* listen to all complaints, and will do all that is in our power to remedy losses, miscarriages by the mails, &c. What we have said is for the purpose of relieving us from blame in the matter, so far as we are really blameless. It is our wish, and shall be our constant effort, to promote efficiency in all departments, and to deal with the strictest impartiality by all. By so doing we can only hope for success. If, at times, some irregularities *do* occur, the subscriber will bear with the shortcoming patiently, for it *shall* be righted, so far as it is possible so to do



T H A N K S !

TO OUR EFFICIENT SECRETARIES do we owe much of the success of the year just past. They have labored zealously for the good of the Association, and generally with good results in the way of those *material* returns upon which, alone, our future depends. Had they been less faithful, less considerate of the claims of the institution upon their sympathy, we might not now have to congratulate ourselves upon the success which has crowned the workings of the Association for 1856. We therefore tender them our sincerest thanks, and trust that they may long continue to remain friends of Art and co-workers with us in the good labor of disseminating Art and Literary taste over this, our blessed and truly glorious country. If any of these, our *active* friends, shall visit the scene of our operations in New-York, pray let them call, that we may do the agreeable, as an *old* friend should.

TO OUR LADY COADJUTORS we have elsewhere bestowed something of the

meed of thanks we owe. We are not insensible to such favor as they have rendered, and promise ourselves much pleasure in “working up” the kind words they have spirited us, into good things for the future. We have a brilliant offering for the year to come—one which we know will enlist their sympathies anew; and thus we hope to enlarge the wide circle of our *friends*, as well as the list of our subscribers. Until we visit you again, fair co-workers, we bid you all *bon voyage!*

TO THE PRESS we owe a return for its many favors, so freely bestowed. North, South, East, West—in all sections of the Union—the Association has received the most encouraging notice at the hands of the conductors of the press; and in no small degree is our success owing to such favorable attention. We here tender the brethren our gratitude for their assistance, and trust long to labor to their acceptance. When we cease to win *their* co-operation, it will be time for closing operations entirely. May such a moment be far, very far distant!

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS, what can we say but thanks—thanks—thanks, for their *material* sympathy, their kindly co-operation, their patience with shortcomings, and their generously-expressed encouragement, contained in almost every letter to us? They *have* our heart and our hand; and it shall be our study so to manage the affairs of the Association as to bring it to the highest degree of usefulness and excellence. To this end we ask a continuance of their sympathy, through the coming year at least, to see if we do not fulfil our promise and redeem every pledge.



English Art has recently sustained a severe loss in the death of Mr. JOHN ARTHUR HERBERT, son of the Royal Academician, which took place at Mouriac, in France, and was occasioned by an attack of typhus fever. He was the author of “Philip IV. of Spain Knighting Velasquez,” one of the most admired pictures in the exhibition at the National Gallery this year. The painting itself was purchased by the ex-Lord Mayor, being selected by an academician whom he had commissioned to purchase the best cabinet picture in the exhibition. Mr. Herbert, at the time of his death, was only in his 22d year.